I claim:

1. A method of applying watermarks $WM_1...WM_k...WM_N$ to sections of 1...k...N of digital content on a recording medium having an identification number (CDID) comprising combining numerical values representing CDID, N and k in accordance with a concatenated hashing function to derive a numerical value for WM_i, and applying the numerical value for WM_i to section i, where i is selectively each of 1...N.

2. A method of checking the watermark of section j of read digital content having watermarks applied in accordance with the method of claim 1 comprising determining the numerical values of CDID, j and N from the read digital content, determining the watermark WM_{ja} actually read from section j, combining the determined numerical values of CDID, j and N by using the same hashing function that is used to derive WM_i to derive a digital signal for the watermark WM_{jr} that should be read from section j, and comparing the digital signal for the watermark WM_{jr} that should be read from section j with an indication of the numerical value for the watermark WM_{ja} actually read from section j.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein CDID is read directly from the medium and WM_{jr} that should be read from section j is derived from H(CDID◊N◊j), where H is the hashing function and ◊ is the concatenation of numbers.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the correctness of the recorded CDID is determined by performing a calculation on value WM_{ja} actually read from section j.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein H(CDID) is determined by subtracting $H(N_j)$ from the value of WM_{ja} actually read from section j.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the value that should be read from section j is calculated in accordance with H(N◊j) to derive a first hashed function, and combining the first hashed function with the determined value of an invertible 2 argument operation that is hashed by hashing function H.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the invertible 2 argument operation is an exclusive or function.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the invertible 2 argument operation is a modular addition function.

9. A recording medium assigned with a numerical ID number (CDID), the medium including digital content, at least some of the digital content having watermarked sections 1...i...N, the watermark in section i having a numerical value in accordance with a hashed concatenated function of CDID, N and i.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the digital content includes media content.

11. Apparatus for applying watermarks $WM_1...WM_k...WM_N$ to sections 1...k...N of a recording medium adapted to have an identification number (CDID) and to include digital content in at least sections 1...k...N, the apparatus comprising a processor arrangement for combining for each of 1...k...N digital signals indicative of CDID, k and N, the signals indicative of CDID, k and N being combined in accordance with a concatenated hashing function to derive a hashed concatenated output signal and a write unit for applying the hashed concatenated output signal to the recording medium.

12. Apparatus for checking the validity of digital watermarks in sections 1...k...N, of a digital recording medium having an identification number (CDID) and digital content

recorded in at least sections 1...j...N of the medium, the apparatus comprising a read unit for reading the digital content and the watermarks and for deriving digital signals indicative thereof, a processor arrangement connected to be responsive to the read unit for determining (a) the numerical value of bits WM_{jr} in watermarks that should be recorded in at least some of sections 1...j...N in accordance with a hashed function of concatenated values of a determined value of CDID combined with H, j and N, (b) the numerical values of bits WM_{ja} actually read from the medium, and (c) the relative values of WM_{jr} and WM_{ja}.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the processor arrangement is arranged to respond to CDID as read from the medium and for determining WM_{jr} and H(CDID◊N◊j), where H is the hashing function and ◊ is the concatenation of numbers.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the processor arrangement is arranged for calculating the value of CDID in response to the value WM_{ja} actually read from section j.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor arrangement is arranged to respond to CDID as read from the medium and for determining WM_{jr} as actually read from section j.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the processor arrangement is arranged to determine CDID by subtracting of H(N◊k) from the value of WM_{ja} actually read from section j.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the processor arrangement is arranged to (a) calculate the value that should be read from section j in accordance with H(N◊j) to derive

a first hashed function and (b) combine the first hashed function with the determined value of an invertible 2 argument operation that is hashed by hashing function H.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the invertible 2 argument operation is an exclusive or function.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the number of bits in the numerical value of WM_k is in the range of 20 to 24.

20. The method of claim 2 wherein the number of bits in the numerical value of WM_k is in the range of 20 to 24.

21. The medium of claim 9 wherein the numerical value is represented by 20 to 24 bits.

22. The method of claim 11 wherein the number of bits in the numerical value of WM_k is in the range of 20 to 24.

23. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the number of bits in the numerical value of WM_k is in the range of 20 to 24.